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Comments: Knowledge has changed in the last thirty years so good idea to update the Rangeland Management Directive. As the policies and regulations are examined, please keep in mind the intent of the original authors of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

I don't want to deprive ranchers of their livelihood but want to protect our wilderness currently and into the future. Opening up vacant allotments to grazing is a movement in the wrong directions. Some examples of harm are the negative impact on the watersheds and spreading invasive plants. Here in the Pacific Northwest, water is increasingly becoming a flash point as evident by the drought impact on farming and fishing on the Oregon/California border.

In Washington State (2017) the direct impact of invasive species on crops grown is estimated to be \$239.5 million per year; The direct economic impact of invasive species on the livestock industry is estimated to be \$120.1 million annually; The direct economic impact on the timber industry is estimated to be \$124.8 million. The direct economic impact to recreational activities is estimated to be \$20.5 million per year. The information was a from a Power Point presentation: Economic Impact of Invasive Species Direct Costs Estimates and Economic Impacts for Washington State January 2017. To remain economically competitive and viable, we need to protect our lands, all types of land.

Ideally the impact of the Forest Service's grazing polices will be evaluated and addressed through a transparent, public process which complies with federal laws to include the National Environmental Policy Act.

As we near the quarter century mark of the 21st century, let us look forward to managing our wilderness areas, not backwards to the management techniques of the 1960s.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.